

# Education Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
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## What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

### Missouri Numbers:



**4,367 Employers**



**207,380 Workers**



**\$47,773 Average Wage**

### Why Have a Career in Education?

Education professionals are preparing today's students to be tomorrow's workforce. The Education industry has over 4,000 employers in both the public and private sector that provide jobs to over 207,000 workers. Wages in this industry averaged \$47,773 in 2020.

Employment declined an average of 1.1 percent per year from 2015 to 2020, for a total of 12,377 jobs. Employment in the industry was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020. Education represents 8.1 percent of all public and private sector employment.

From Office Support to Instructors and Administrators, there are a variety of job opportunities in the Education sector. High wages and projected growth make Education occupations a good career choice in Instruction, Support Services, Professional Support Services, and Administrative & Business Support.

### Know the Basics

Most employees in the Education sector interact with students and others on a daily basis so being able to communicate effectively, both individually and in groups, is necessary. The ability to work with co-workers as a team is also important. For instructors, knowledge of subject matter, the ability to adapt teaching methods and materials to meet student's needs, and the ability to evaluate student's work and progress are important. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability are important in all industries, including Education.

### Skills needed for Success:

There are several ways to become a certified educator in Missouri. In addition to the traditional route of completing student teaching and receiving a bachelor's degree in the field of education, there are alternative routes to certification available. An individual with a bachelor's degree in a content area, such as Mathematics or English, can return to a college of education for a program of study that may enable them to take courses and teach simultaneously. In certain middle and high school subjects, an individual with a bachelor's degree can complete a program of study from the American Board of Certification for Teacher Excellence (ABCTE), pass their specific test, and be certified. Current certified teachers can also add new areas of certification by taking Missouri Area Content Exams.

### Who's Hiring in Missouri?

**Washington University**  
**University of Missouri**  
**Saint Louis University**  
**Missouri State University**  
**Local School Districts**



## Instruction

## Professional Support Services

### Now

#### Short-Term On-the-Job Training

##### Childcare Workers

Entry: \$20,260; Average: \$25,150

**Certificates:** Child Care Provider/Assistant

##### Library Assistants, Clerical

Entry: \$19,840; Average: \$24,620

**Skills:** Library Resources, Customer Service, Clerical Duties

### Next

#### Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

##### Teacher Assistants

Entry: \$20,040; Average: \$26,710

##### Preschool Teachers, except Special Education

Entry: \$25,530; Average: \$34,470

**Certificates:** Child Care and Support Services Management  
**Degrees:** Early Childhood Education and Teaching

##### Library Technicians

Entry: \$24,610; Average: \$35,870

##### Occupational Therapy Assistants

Entry: \$49,900; Average: \$57,100

##### Physical Therapist Assistants

Entry: \$45,410; Average: \$52,320

**Degrees:** Occupational Therapist Assistant, Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant

### Later

#### Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

##### Elementary School Teachers

Entry: \$37,980; Average: \$52,050

##### Secondary School Teachers

Entry: \$37,920; Average: \$48,570

##### Special Education Teachers, Secondary School

Entry: \$38,840; Average: \$46,760

**Degrees:** Teacher Education, Special Education and Teaching, Elementary Education

##### Instructional Coordinators

Entry: \$47,850; Average: \$62,100

##### Registered Nurses

Entry: \$52,890; Average: \$65,900

##### Librarians

Entry: \$41,070; Average: \$56,950

**Degrees:** Nursing, Curriculum and Instruction, Library Science, Psychology

### Sources:

EMSI Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool  
Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse  
2020 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Top employers data is based on 2021 online job ads



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## Support Services

## Administrative & Business Operations

### Now

#### Short-Term On-the-Job Training

**Janitors and Cleaners, except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners**

Entry: \$22,570; Average: \$29,550

**Food Preparation Workers**

Entry: \$19,940; Average: \$23,670

**Security Guards**

Entry: \$27,000; Average: \$38,770

**General Office Clerks**

Entry: \$25,010; Average: \$36,060

**Receptionists & Information Clerks**

Entry: \$24,150; Average: \$29,930

**Data Entry Keyers**

Entry: \$27,720; Average: \$33,380

**Certificates:** Truck and Bus Driver/Commercial Vehicle Operator, Certified Protection Officer**Certificates:** Business Administration Certificates

### Next

#### Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

**Maintenance and Repair Workers, General**

Entry: \$30,970; Average: \$41,940

**Food Service Managers**

Entry: \$36,830; Average: \$59,490

**First-Line Supervisor of Housekeeping & Janitorial Workers**

Entry: \$30,760; Average: \$40,870

**Certificates:** Restaurant, Culinary, and Catering Management/Manager**Certificates:** Building Maintenance, ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification**Secretaries & Administrative Assistants**

Entry: \$28,330; Average: \$37,310

**Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks**

Entry: \$32,510; Average: \$41,320

**Computer User Support Specialists**

Entry: \$38,080 Average: \$53,600

**Degrees:** Business Administration & Management, Accounting, Computer Science

### Later

#### Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

**General & Operations Managers**

Entry: \$53,030; Average: \$101,610

**General & Operations Managers**

Entry: \$53,030; Average: \$101,610

**Human Resources Specialists**

Entry: \$43,920 Average: \$61,150

**Degrees:** Business Administration & Management**Degrees:** Business Administration & Management, Human Resources Development

#### Sources:

EMSI Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool  
 Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse  
 2020 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 Top employers data is based on 2021 online job ads



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